

DIOCESAN NEWS

Members named to commission

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has appointed 15 women and one priest to the Diocesan Women's Commission to help parishes implement Diocesan Synod Goal No. 3: "Recognize and Value the Dignity of Women in the Church and Society."

In a statement released March 22, the diocese explained that the commission will meet quarterly and oversee four sub-committees on spirituality, inclusive language, violence and poverty, and women in leadership.

The statement also said that commission members' occupations are wide-ranging, in the fields of school administration, theology, dentistry, psychology, AIDS ministry, women's issues studies, medieval history.

Commission members and their parishes are as follows:

Rosemary A. Bloise from St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads; Dr. Christine Bochen from St. Louis Church in Pittsford; Patricia Brewster from Holy Trinity Monastery in Hornell; Patricia Redmond Clark from St. Mary's of the Lake of Watkins Glen; Beverly J. Evans from St. Mary's in Geneseo; Delaine Greene and Betty A. Humphrey from St. Bridget's in Rochester; Dorothy Lindsay from St. Charles Borromeo in Greece; Kathleen A. Marjinsky, from Sacred Heart in Auburn; Father Kevin P. Murphy from St. John the Evangelist in Rochester; Katherine Francis Otis from St. Helen's in Gates; and Dr. Olga M. Sarda, from St. Anne's in Rochester.

In addition, the diocese's two largest orders of religious women have representatives: Sister Mary Louise Heffernan and Sister Jamesine Riley of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Rochester; and Sister Kathleen Wayne and Sister Mary Frances Wegman from the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester.

Kathleen Cannon, diocesan Synod implementation coordinator, will instruct commission members on their responsibilities in April.

Knights schedule event as tribute to area clergy

CANANDAIGUA — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 1445 will sponsor an "Honor the Clergy Night" Friday, April 19, at the Lakeshore House. The event is designed to honor present and former St. Mary's Parish priests and women religious, as well as other clergy from the diocese.

Father James Callan, administrator of Corpus Christi Parish, will speak.

Tickets, \$18 per person, and further information are available from St. Mary's Parish, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424, or by calling 716/394-1220.

Book chronicles history of Watkins Glen parish

WATKINS GLEN — A book detailing the 150-year history of St. Mary of the Lake Parish has been published.

Co-authored by Jean Argetsinger and Patricia Ellison, the hardcover book has been released in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary of the Lake. It highlights the history of the pioneer Irish and Italian families and their descendants who settled in Schuyler County. Included in the publication are nearly 200 pages of family biographies, church memories, anecdotes, photographs and drawings.

For purchasing information, call Sam Pazzary at 607/535-2575.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Seder Supper Celebrated

Sixth-grade students from St. Louis Church in Pittsford joined their Jewish peers at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton March 20 for a traditional Seder dinner. The ceremonial dinner is celebrated by Jews at the start of Passover. Top photo, (from right) Sarah Lovenheim, Joellen Ranaletta, Rachel Present, and Elissa Klein sample a variety of foods including haroset, a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine. The mixture represents the mortar used by the Israelites in Egypt. At left, St. Louis parishioner Zack Boyce reacts to the horseradish on his matzo.

Finger-imaging protesters face trial April 3

By Rob Cullivan
Staff Writer

Four people, including two priests, are slated for trial in Rochester City Court at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, on charges of third-degree criminal trespass after a protest over Monroe County's finger-imaging of public assistance recipients.

Arrested March 18 at the county's Department of Social Services offices at 111 Westfall Road were Father Paul English, CSB, Father Richard O'Connell, Jan Bezila and John "Pat" O'Hara.

Father English had asked to be finger-imaged, and, when he was refused, declined to leave the offices. He was then joined by the other three protesters, and after all four refused to leave, they were arrested.

Father English said the protesters appeared in city court March 20 and were advised by Judge Ann E. Pfeiffer to get an attorney, rather than represent themselves. The priest said the foursome is currently deciding upon an attorney.

The protesters' civil disobedience came on the heels of Monroe County's March 11 announcement that heads of households receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children in Monroe County were to be finger-imaged. Sup-

porters of the policy contend it is designed to stop welfare fraud, but opponents view finger-imaging as dehumanizing to the poor.

Both Fathers English and O'Connell told the *Catholic Courier* they had received phone calls expressing support and opposition to their participation in the protest since their arrests made the local headlines. Both priests said they had not wavered in their resolve that breaking the law in their case was the right thing to do, and stated their belief that the rich were unfairly targeting the poor as scapegoats for the nation's problems.

"As a priest, I just simply want to speak for what I think is a Gospel value," Father O'Connell said. "Jesus came for the poor. He was born poor and he died poor."

Father English said his civil disobedience was rooted, in part, in his fear that the type of war waged during the 1980s by rich elites against poor guerrilla armies in such countries as El Salvador could happen in the United States eventually. He stressed that tens of thousands of poor civilians were killed by the Salvadoran army during the Central American conflict.

"We're fooling ourselves if we think that can happen only outside the United States when the greed here is 20 times as bad," he said.

"I'm completely at peace with what I did," Father English added, "because I feel so strongly that the people who are poor are such an easy mark for those who aren't."

The Holy Rosary at St. Patrick's Cathedral

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PEPOPE

Performers sought for play written by local playwright

Michaelangelo Productions, Inc., is seeking male and female actors for "Baptized in Love," a play written by Irondequoit resident Camille Fadia.

Needed are male actors, ages 25-50, to portray a priest, psychiatrist, judge and police officer; black and Italian-looking actors, ages 16-21, to play gang members and leading roles; and female actors, ages 16-21, to play gang members.

The production company is also seeking a stage manager, choreographer, music director, makeup people and a cinematographer.

Interested individuals should call 716/342-1562.